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Preliminary Assessment of the Woodford Avenue Quarry  
near 231 Woodford Avenue  
Elyria, Oh 44035 Lorain County  
OHD980510416

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



373690

PA completed by E & E 1983

This assessment serves as an update of the PA completed by E & E in 1983.  
(E & E also completed a site inspection)

The Woodford Avenue Quarry is located on 1-2 acres of a wooded area near 231 Woodford Avenue in the City of Elyria, Lorain County, Ohio. A small creek runs near the eastern and southern boundaries of the quarry, and eventually feeds in the Black River, which is a few hundred yards to the east. Two small ponds are located on the property. Chessie system railroad tracks run along the outside of the eastern boundary. The Lorain county Metropark is located 3 miles to the north; the Black River runs through it.

According to the property owner, the property is not a dump site, but a swampy area that he arranged to have filled. Testing done on surface water samples collected on 12-2-80 revealed the presence of toluene, xylene, methyl-ethyl ketones, trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, and methylene chloride. Testing done on groundwater samples collected in July of 1983 revealed the presence of 1,2-trans-dichloroethene, acetone, methylene chloride, toluene, pentachlorophenol, bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, 1,4 - dichlorobenzene, 2-chlorophenol, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, and a tentatively identified compound called hexahydro-2H-azepin-2-one.

Rumors of illegal hazardous waste dumping and of buried drums containing hazardous substances are associated with the Woodford Avenue Quarry. The property owner claims that any contamination on his property is due to the presence of an older dump site located upgradient of the quarry. The "older dump site" would be the Elyria City Landfill, which is located upgradient and southwest of the Woodford Avenue Quarry, and less than a 1/4 mile away. Elyria City Landfill has a history of hazardous waste problems, from illegal acceptance of unidentified barrels to open pools of highly toxic leachate.

The City of Elyria gets its water supply from an intake in Lake Erie (over 10 miles from the site) as the city sits atop impermeable deposits of clay overlying low-yield shale or atop the intermittently productive Berea Sandstone.

US EPA Contractors - Field Investigation Team (FIT) data review findings (water samples 10-5-83) from Ecology and Environment, Inc. state that the chemical analysis "data will remain unreviewed by regional laboratory unless otherwise requested." Due to prior inspections and testing done on the Woodford Avenue Quarry, it is recommended that this site be given a low priority for further FIT activity and a low priority for state activity. Also, OEPA requests a review of the unreviewed chemical analyses data.